

**Quote:** *It (coronavirus) has highlighted and exacerbated inequalities in the home and in the workforce as women tend to make up the majority of those who are home schooling. They are carers, they are healthcare workers and home teachers.* Natasha Stott Despoja, National Press Club, 19 Aug 2020

**From President, Elisabeth Newman AM**

This comes with the hope that you are all coping well but unfortunately, news that the level 4 lockdown is to continue for a further two weeks, all-be-it with minor easing of restrictions, is rather sad. If corona virus infections continue to fall, the restrictions will be gradually eased with the aim of having a “normal” Christmas. We still have no clear picture in which to plan future meetings and events for NCWV. We hope it will be possible to have a face to face AGM, postponed from 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept, on 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec, possibly combined with ZOOM; The fate of the End of Year Festive Luncheon is unknown. However, following correspondence from the City of Melbourne, we are hopeful we will be able to hold the Australia Day Pioneer Women’s Ceremony on January 18<sup>th</sup>.

The final touches to the Annual Report are being made. Further to the AGM, the present Committee will stay in place until the AGM can be held. All NCWV members are urged to actively look for suitable committee members, in particular, a Secretary and Treasurer. Both these positions are limited by the Constitution for a maximum of three years.

At the NCWA Board virtual meeting President Robyn Nolan confirmed that the Adelaide Conference is cancelled. It is planned to hold a virtual (ZOOM) annual meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> Oct 13.00hr-15.00hr, with the prime purpose to discuss and vote on resolutions. In acknowledging NCWV’s briefing papers, Robyn congratulated NCWV for the work members are doing under difficult circumstances. National Councils have sent messages of concern at the increase in the corona virus in Melbourne and wish us all well.

**I would like to acknowledge some of our Advisers:**

**Edith Chen, leader of Mooney Valley Golden Age Women’s Group** oversaw the publication of the Bilingual book: *A Golden Age in Flemington: 10 Years of Active Ageing* which provides a case study for service providers working with CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) populations or those interested in multiculturalism and ageing. The book documents, over 10 years, the self-directed activities of a community of Chinese seniors to actively engage with their broader community. It reflects on challenges, positive outcomes and aspirations. It is available through the RHSV:

<https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/product/a-golden-age-in-flemington-10-years-of-active-ageing/>

**June Anderson, President of the AABWA** (below right), has received a letter of appreciation from the Dept of Health & Human Services for her volunteer work. The organisation is to be congratulated for all the work undertaken supporting the Chinese community and residents in general when the Housing Commission high rise flats in the Flemington/Kensington area were put under lockdown. Assisting with the door-knocking, testing blitz and offering her time to encourage people to get tested and by sharing advice about available support, has made a real difference in slowing the spread of COVID-19.



**Nurcihan Ozturk, President of the Turkish Women’s Recreation Group** (above left) is to be congratulated on receiving an award for her dedication over five years as a volunteer at Northern Health. She has held many roles in supporting the needs of the migrant and refugee communities, children and those living with a disability.

**Emma Fu, NCWV Economics Adviser**, recently graduated in Bachelor of Commerce Major in Economics and Finance from the University of Melbourne and now is working full-time – congratulations to Emma.

**Some further good news:**

After years lobbying for a warning label to be placed on alcohol beverage as a measure to reduce the incidence of Foetal Alcohol Syndrome, NCWV is pleased to have received the following news from NCWA:

“Multi-coloured pregnancy warning labels on alcoholic beverages will be mandatory in Australia after the Ministerial Forum on Food Regulation accepted new standards proposed by Food Standards Australia and New Zealand. The alcohol industry will have to ensure pregnancy health warning labels are placed on all bottles and cans within three years. The Minister responsible for food regulation and Chair of the Ministerial Forum on Food regulation stated the changes were an important step forward protecting the health of pregnant women and infants.”

Keep well and enjoy the Spring.



**August Council Meeting: ZOOM due to restrictions.  
Speaker: The Honourable Diana Bryant AO, QC**



Diana retired as Chief Justice of the Family Court of Australia in 2017 after 13 years, and 4 years prior to that as inaugural Chief Federal Magistrate of the Federal Magistrates Court of Australia (now Federal Circuit Court of Australia).

Prior to her appointment to the Bench in 2000, she worked as a solicitor and barrister for 23 years in the area of family law. She was one of two Hague Network Judges for Australia in relation to the Hague Children's Conventions and is Australia's representative and Chair, international Working Group for The Hague Conference on Private International Law in relation to Child Abduction Convention.

She spoke on the review of the Family Law Court, by informing the meeting that the original Bill to merge the Family Court with the Federal Circuit Court was withdrawn. There were many submissions received and amendments included, incorporating recommendations from these submissions. The updated Bill has gone to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee who will report to Parliament in November. This is Parliament working positively to ensure appropriate change occurs. One structure has been recommended with two Divisions – Family Law and Federal Circuit, which Diana believes is desirable, more practical, one set of rules, with one point of entry and one head for both the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (FCFC). This also provides regulation of the number of trained judges in the Family Court. Diana would like to see this legislated. Paragraph 11(2) *provides that, by reason of knowledge, skills, experience and aptitude, the person is a suitable person to deal with matters of family law, including matters involving family violence...to be appointed as a Judge of the FCFC (Division 1) and exercise family law jurisdiction.*

There is currently a separate Appellate Division for appeals in the Family Court with 3 judges. This is under review with the possibility of one judge hearing appeals. There needs to be consistency with the trial judge. Submissions from women's organisations and the legal profession have been mainly supportive of amendments with some reservations e.g., risk assessment and need for robust qualification process. There needs to be transparency in appointment of judges, with proper process, with specialist judges.

Most issues suggested remain and are working well. The Appeals Division needs to be maintained. The Government is funding a risk screening and triage pilot in the Adelaide, Brisbane and Parramatta registries of the Family Court and Federal Circuit Court of Australia. The pilot program is being implemented under the Lighthouse Project to provide guidance and support to families

experiencing, or at risk of, family violence and other risk behaviours, much as a lighthouse provides light and navigation waypoint for ships.

## News from some of our Members

**ALGWA Victoria presents: Thurs, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm:** ALGWA Vic is bringing an event from Uruguay where Senator Carmen Sanguinetti will speak on empowering women and the charge she is making to social impact at a high level dominated by males. [Book Now](#)

**Mon, Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> 5:30 pm:** ALGWA presents **Cocktails and 300 words**. Hosted by President, Cr Kylie Spears, those '300 words' are vital to your campaign success in the Local Council election. How can you make the best of them? Join this Online Forum and ask away. [Book Now](#)

**Thurs, Sept 24<sup>th</sup> 5:30 pm:** ALGWA presents **Keep you focused**. Cr Kylie Spears will be keeping motivation up and ensuring you are in the best possible position for your campaign for Local Council success. [Book Now](#)

**'It's Our Time'** - a campaign to inspire and support women nominating for the October Victorian Council elections. These council elections are an unprecedented opportunity for Victorian women to lead the post-COVID recovery and ensure the gains made on gender parity are not lost because women choose not to stand, or don't have the support needed to stand. *It's Our Time* will draw on the experience and expertise of partners including Local Government Professionals, Australian Local Government Women's Association, the Victorian Local Governance Association, the YWCA and the Ethnic Communities Council.

A century on from the election of the state's first woman councillor, Mary Rogers, Victoria now boasts the highest number of female mayors in history, 32 across the state. But, 13 of Victoria's 79 councils have just one female councillor while women account for just 38% of elected representatives. Nominations close 12pm, 22 Sept.

**Afri-Aus Care and ADRA Victoria** need help to restock their community pantry with essential items including food, personal items and cleaning products. With the increase in demand since the coronavirus outbreak, their food supplies are quickly becoming depleted and they urgently need more food, personal items and cleaning products to continue to deliver emergency food packages to their young African Australian clients and families living in South East Melbourne. [Find out more](#)

## Other News

**WIRE is here to listen.** Women, nonbinary and gender diverse people are resilient. But learning to adapt to the changes brought about by lockdown doesn't make us superheroes. We can provide support, information and referral on any issue. Call (1300 134 130), email [support@wire.org.au](mailto:support@wire.org.au), or web chat at [www.wire.org.au](http://www.wire.org.au), Mon-Fri, 9-5pm. We are receiving more calls than usual and may take a few days to return calls.

For a faster response contact us via email or web chat. If you are struggling with lockdown, call [Beyond Blue](#) via phone 1800 512 348 & web chat or [Lifeline](#) (13 11 14).

**Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC)** and the Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission (VEOHRC), are holding a series of information sessions to educate and empower multicultural and multifaith communities about racism, understanding your rights and taking action, with sessions for specific communities as well as a general session:

Muslim communities Tuesday 8 Sept 6-7.30pm, Muslim Legal Network, Islamic Council of Victoria [Register now](#)  
South Asian communities Thursday 10 Sept 5.30-7pm, Asian Australian Lawyers Association [Register now](#)  
Māori and Pasifika communities Monday 14 Sept 6-7.30pm, United Pasifika Council of Victoria [Register now](#)  
Multicultural youth Tues 15 Sept 5.30-7pm, Khayshie Tilak Ramesh, MY Commissioner [Register now](#)  
Muslim women Wednesday 16 Sept 6-7.30pm, Muslim Legal Network, Islamic Council of Victoria [Register now](#)  
Communities of Myanmar Saturday 19 Sept 1.30-3.30pm, Bwe Thuy, VMC Commissioner [Register now](#)  
General session (all welcome) Tuesday 22 Sept 6-7.30pm, Vivienne Nguyen, VMC Chairperson [Register now](#)

**Royal Historical Society Victoria** has a full program of webinars, online book events, on-line clinics and talks in October, History Month. When you have an event upload it to [www.historymonth.org.au](http://www.historymonth.org.au). If you have any queries contact Jess on [info@historymonth.org.au](mailto:info@historymonth.org.au)

### Health Week 7-11 September [Sign up](#)

#### The week

Five days of educational health information, with 2000 events: podcasts, Facebook videos-1pm,

articles, tips, tools to help you be the healthiest possible. Receive these health gifts into your inbox daily:  
-Wonders down-under - vagina, uterus, ovaries health  
-Heartbeat heroes – heart health  
-The inside story – bowel, kidney, bladder health  
-The heads up - anxiety, sleep patterns, brain health.  
-Money matters - explore financial health.



**[Mental Health Foundation Australia](#)**: Walk for Mental Health – Anywhere and Everywhere! With the current situation, the MHFA brings our Virtual National Walk for Mental Health! Walk from anywhere around Australia. Walking virtually means you can start your journey whenever you like! Start a 60-day walking challenge setting step goals for yourself, or form a team, in the MHFA's walk for Mental Health on the **18th of October from 10:30 am -12:30 pm.**

This year, we raise awareness for the better mental health of all, but specifically, for 24-hour Mental Health Helpline, for individuals in all stages of their mental health journey to seek support. Take a step towards raising mental health awareness—physically, virtually, or both! [See more](#)

### Order of Australia Honours

This year's Order of Australia award recipients celebrate Australia's diversity. In addition to being Australian, recipients identified with an ancestral heritage from more than 30 different countries. The number of women receiving an award in the Order of Australia lists has increased from 37.4% in 2019 to 42% in 2020, with Victoria reaching 50%. It's important that our honours system reflects the extraordinary contributions of people right across Australia. Let's further celebrate Australia's diversity - help build on the diversity of our honours recipients. If you know someone who is an extraordinary contributor to Australia, please nominate them.

*Anyone can nominate any Australian for an award in the Order of Australia. If you know someone worthy, nominate them now at [www.gg.gov.au](http://www.gg.gov.au).*

### **NCWV October 1<sup>st</sup> Council Meeting, 12:15pm.**

**This will be a ZOOM meeting.**

**The Individual Members' Meeting, will be part of this meeting.**

**Speaker: Amanda Southwell, Community Engagement Manager with International Needs Australia.** INA focusses on Sustainable Livelihoods; Health and Hygiene; Education and children's Rights; Women Empowerment in Eight countries.

This is an appropriate month to hear about INA as the Day of the Child falls within October.

**If you wish to be part of this meeting, please reply to this email to be included in the invitation.**

**Please contact us if there are any issues for you or for your Organisation that we may be able to assist you with, support or advocate on your behalf.**

**Our Purposes:** to provide a non-party political, non-sectarian, not-for-profit, umbrella organisation with broadly humanitarian and educational objectives, empowering women and girls and raising awareness of gender equality; act as a voice on issues and concerns of women and girls at a State level; develop policies and responses on behalf of women and girls on a State-wide basis; maintain and strengthen the Association's relationship with all members; link with women in Australia and the International Council of Women through the National Council of Women of Australia and contribute to the implementation of their plans of action and policies.

**Our motto:** The Preamble to the original ICW Constitution said "We, women of all Nations, in the conviction that the good of humanity will be best advanced by greater unity of thought, sympathy and purpose, and that an organised movement will serve to promote the highest good of the family and of the Nation, do hereby band ourselves together in a federation of women of all races, nations and creeds, to further the application of the Golden Rule to society, custom and law: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

### NCWV Dates for 2020

<b>NCWA:</b>	Mid-term meeting in Adelaide 15 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> October 2020, has been cancelled. Annual Meeting 16 <sup>th</sup> October 13.00hr-15.00hr. Further details to follow.		
<b>ICW-CIF:</b>	2020 Mid-term Executive meeting is cancelled. General Assembly to be in Avignon, France 6 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2021. Registration details to follow.		
<b>August</b>	<b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Individual Members General Meeting, with election-11:15-11:45am</b>	
		<b>Virtual Council Meeting, 12:15-2:00pm, Hon Diana Bryant AO QC</b>	
	<b>Monday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Standing Committee Meeting, 4:30-6:00pm</b>	<b>Virtual</b>
	<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Committee Meeting, 10am-12 noon</b>	
<b>Sept.</b>	<b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>NCWV AGM, 12:15-2:00pm, Janet Michelmore</b>	<b>Virtual</b>
	<b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Committee Meeting, 10am-12 noon</b>	<b>Virtual</b>
<b>October</b>	<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Council and Individual Members Meeting, 12:15-2:00pm, Virtual</b>	
		<b>Amanda Southwell, Community Manager, International Needs Australia</b>	
	<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Standing Committee Meeting, 4:30-6:00pm</b>	<b>Virtual</b>
	<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Committee Meeting, 10am-12 noon</b>	<b>Virtual</b>
<b>Nov.</b>	<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Late Council Meeting, 5:15-7:15pm</b>	<b>To be confirmed</b>
	<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Committee Meeting, 10am-12 noon</b>	<b>To be confirmed</b>
	<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>End of Year Festive Luncheon, 12.00</b>	<b>Angliss Restaurant,</b>
		<b>550 Little Lonsdale St Melbourne, near Spencer Street.</b>	<b>TBC.</b>
<b>Decem.</b>	<b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>AGM, to be confirmed.</b>	
<b>January 2021</b>	<b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Australia Day Pioneer Women's Ceremony,</b>	
		<b>Women's Peace Garden, Kensington</b>	<b>TBC</b>